

**From:** [Ellis, John](#)  
**To:** "Laurence Brewer"  
**Cc:** [Kelly, Lynn](#); [Murray, Paulette](#); [unauthorized\\_Disposition@nara.gov](mailto:unauthorized_Disposition@nara.gov); [Andrea Noel](#)  
**Subject:** Press Reports of Alteration of Federal Records  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 3:34:00 PM

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Hello Laurence,

In accordance with 44 U.S. Code § 3106 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 1230.14 and 1230.16 concerning allegations of unlawful or accidental removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records, I'm writing to inform you about related allegations made in a whistleblower matter that has been recently reported in the press.

Here are the articles/information concerning the allegations:

- Press Release: <https://www.peer.org/epa-risk-assessments-doctored-to-mask-hazards/>
- Complaint Summary: [https://www.peer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/7\\_2\\_21-EPA-Scientists-Transmittal-letter.pdf](https://www.peer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/7_2_21-EPA-Scientists-Transmittal-letter.pdf)
- News Article: <https://theintercept.com/2021/07/02/epa-chemical-safety-corruption-whistleblowers/>

I wanted to let you know that EPA is aware of the records-related allegations that are referenced in the above reports and are researching the matter. At this time EPA does not know to what extent the allegations of records loss are accurate. We have begun fact finding activities and will prepare a report to NARA if we determine there was an unauthorized records loss.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**John B. Ellis - Agency Records Officer**

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**Records or Federal Records - defined in 44 U.S.C. 3301**, includes all recorded information, regardless of form or characteristics, made or received by a Federal agency under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by that agency or its legitimate successor as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the United States Government or because of the informational value of data in them.